



C H A P. XII.

The second Journey of Jacob's Sons into Egypt, &c.

THE famine still continued; and indeed the state of the country was now worse than ever. Jacob's family had eaten up all the provision which was brought from Egypt, and began to have the dismal prospect again of perishing for want.

want. In this distress, Jacob once more entreated his sons to go into Egypt and buy a little food; perhaps expecting that when the governor saw them return, as honest men, he would release Simeon, and let him return with them. But Judah refused to go, unless his father would send Benjamin with them: For, said he, the man did solemnly protest, saying, "Ye shall not see my face except your younger brother is with you." Jacob for a long time argued against sending Benjamin; alledging, that they were exceedingly wrong in telling the man, they had another brother. Judah assured his father it was impossible to avoid telling the governor the whole truth, because he asked so many questions about their families and connections. At length Jacob yielded to commit Benjamin into the care of Judah, who promised faithfully to take the charge of him, and bring him back in safety. And now they were employed in making preparation for

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